

REMARKS

Claims 1-71 are all the claims pending in the application. Claims 1-101 having been subject to a previous restriction requirement (claims 1-71 having been elected without traverse), and claims 72-101 having been cancelled by the present amendment.

Applicant notes initially that several references cited in Applicant's IDS were crossed out by the Examiner. Applicant is unsure why the Examiner has taken such action and no explanation has been provided. It is further puzzling since the identical (or nearly identical) IDS has been filed in dozens of other applications filed by the Applicant. In each of those applications the Examiner has signed and acknowledged the IDS, so Applicant is unsure why the Examiner has now chosen not to acknowledge such references. Applicant requests clarification on the refusal to enter the IDS.

Claims 4, 23, 39, and 55 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claims 1-3, 17, 19-22, 36, and 38 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Ura et al. (5,824,930). Claims 18 and 37 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ura in view of Muramatsu (5,977,466). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections, and requests reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims in view of the following arguments.

With regard to the § 112 rejections, the Office Action indicated that the recited "multi-parameter sensor signals" is not clear. The Action inquires as to whether the surface sensor is representative of touch of the key or the depression. Applicant submits that the generated sensor signals correspond to user contact with the key. Recall that the sensor generating such sensor signals is associated with the key. Thus, displacement of the key is not a requirement, but if such displacement results from user contact of the key, then such an event will also generate sensor signals. By way of non-limiting example, features of this element are disclosed in paras. 214-

273 and 302-311 of the published application. Applicant respectfully invites the Examiner attention to these passages should further clarification of this element be necessary. As one example, Applicant reproduces para. 308 below:

“The invention also provides for the application control discussed above to be enhanced yet further by placing a pressure-sensor array touch-pad on each key. In the limit, this would allow each key to derive up to six parameters for each point of contact on a key and even multiple points of contact (i.e., more than one finger) per key. Although custom pressure-sensor array touch-pads could be crafted for the keys, it is advantageous to employ the aforementioned pressure sensing and processing "mini-array" chips. In fact, applications to key surfaces could be used to dictate the canonical dimensions of the chips, for example the width of the top surface of a black key and a length that is a least common multiple of a black key surface length and a white key surface length.”

In view of the above, Applicant believes that the points raised under the § 112 rejection have been resolved, and therefore requests withdrawal of the rejection to claims 4, 23, 39, and 55.

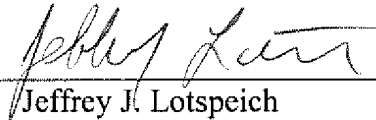
With regard to the prior art rejections, Applicant notes that independent claims 1 and 20 have been amended to include claim elements previously recited in claims 4 and 23, respectively. Since the Action indicated that claims 4 and 23 were directed toward allowable subject matter, Applicant submits that the identified independent claims are also allowable since they include such allowable subject matter. The pending dependent claims are believed patentable at least by virtue of their dependence on the patentable independent claims.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application and the claims are in condition for reconsideration on merits. Examination of the application is requested. The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (213) 623-2221 should the Examiner believe a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

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